

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13: (canceled)

14. (previously amended) An apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising:

a first member having an oblong slot disposed proximate to an edge;

an elongate threaded coupling member having an external thread set and an engaging portion corresponding to the oblong slot of the first member, said threaded coupling member removably engaging the oblong slot and extending away from the edge of the first member; and

a second member having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member to securely bind the first member to the second member.

15 - 19 (canceled)

20. (withdrawn) An apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising:

a first member having an portion extending from an edge and defining an interlocking structure;

an elongate threaded coupling member having an external thread set and an engaging portion corresponding to the interlocking structure of the first member, said threaded coupling member removably engaging the interlocking structure;

a second member having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively

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receiving a portion of the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member to securely bind the first member to the second member.

21. (withdrawn) An apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising:

a generally planar member having an elongated L-shaped structure defined at an edge thereof;

an elongated threaded coupling member having an external thread set, said coupling member being sized to be received within the L-shaped structure of the generally planar member, said threaded coupling member extending away from the edge of the first member; and

a knob member having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the generally planar member.

22. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the elongated threaded coupling member defines an elongated rectangular channel sized to receive a portion of the L-shaped structure.

23. (withdrawn) An apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising:

a generally planar member defining an elongated slot;

an elongated threaded coupling member having an external thread set, at least a portion of said coupling member being configured to pass through the elongate slot of the generally planar member so that portions of the external thread set are disposed at opposite sides of the planar member; and

a knob member having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the generally planar member.

24. (withdrawn) An apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising:

a first member defining a slot which passes between opposed sides of the first member;

a threaded coupling member having an external thread set, at least a portion of said coupling member being configured to pass through the slot of the first member so that portions of the external thread set are disposed at the opposed sides of the first member; and

a knob member having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the elongate threaded coupling member is two longitudinal portions of a threaded shank each having an threaded exterior surface and a substantially flat interior surface.

26. (previously amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the first member is less than a diameter of the internal thread set, and a distance between ends of the oblong slot is substantially greater than the thickness of the first member.